

# Six Ways to Get Into the College of Your Dreams

*In order to get into the college of your dreams, you must have a plan of action. Don't have one? Then look at our suggestions for getting into your dream school.*



## **1 Make Your High School Counselor Your Friend.**

Counselors are incredibly busy and many do not have time to get to know every one of their students personally. It is up to students to take the initiative and schedule an appointment with the school counselor. Many students apply to the same college and impersonal form letters of recommendation do little to separate any one student from the pack of applicants. Interacting with a counselor who knows who you are and where you're headed is an invaluable advantage in the college selection process.

## **2 Score Well On Standardized Tests.**

Investigate SAT prep courses. Some are more worthwhile

than others. Review books are valuable if you have the discipline to use them regularly. Advanced Placement tests also count as standardized tests, but tend to reflect the curriculum taught as much as student ability.

## **3 Don't Slack Off Your Senior Year.**

Good colleges are becoming more and more selective, and having a challenging senior year shows a commitment to lifetime learning. Colleges are more interested in a student's transcript than his or her GPA. Don't assume a high A in a regular class is better than a low B in an honors class.

**4 Don't Wait for Scholarships To Fall Into Your Lap.** There are hundreds of thousands of dollars in unclaimed scholarships each

year. Don't assume scholarship committees or a counselor will seek you out. Be on the lookout for scholarships before you are accepted to college. Many scholarships are available to juniors and underclassmen, and they are more likely to go unclaimed.

**5 Be Sure You Actually Want To Attend The College To Which You Are Applying.** Don't apply to only one school because the rest of the senior class is doing so. Students should not let geographical and financial barriers stop them from applying to schools with top-notch programs in their chosen fields. Do all the digging you can, including reading up on and visiting the colleges that

interest you. Don't be afraid to talk to current and former students and professors.

**6 Show Admissions Officers You Have A Life Outside Of School.** Many high school seniors live on extremes. They either have absolutely no life outside of school or spend all their free time partying. Both are unimpressive to an admissions office. Balance is an important part of life. Many times an involved student is more impressive to colleges than an uninvolved student with better grades. In 1996, Harvard rejected thirteen applicants with an SAT score of 1600. ♦

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